Recruitment policy

732. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the recruitment policy of Railways for railway security personnel in Assam and North East;

(b) whether it is a fact that less than 10 per cent local youth is employed at security personnel posts;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the relevant data regarding recruitment of local people at different positions in the Railways in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Recruitment to various posts in Railway Protection Force (RPF)/Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) is governed by RPF Rules, 1987. As per these Rules, open recruitment is conducted on all India basis. An eligible person from any State/ Union Territory can apply for the vacancies of any zonal railway. There is, however, no specific recruitment policy for Assam and North East.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Out of a total 497 vacancies of Constables filled up in RPF/RPSF by Northeast Frontier Railway during the year 2007, 289 vacancies were filled up by local people.

Privatisation of some departments

†733. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to privatise some departments under his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the names of those departments which are being considered for privatisation and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Passenger reservation system

†734. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme of Government to provide the facility of reservation of railway tickets through post offices;

(b) if so, the country-wide details of the nature of aforesaid scheme;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Passenger Reservation System (PRS) set up by Railways on the stations of remote areas remains often out of order;

(d) if not, the status of PRS functioning in the country; and

(e) if so, what is Government's scheme in this regard to facilitate the rural passengers of remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 31st July, 2007 between Ministry of Railways and Department of Posts, Government of India for sale of reserved Railway tickets through Post Office. Department of Posts will realize the following service charges from the passengers in lieu of issue of tickets:-

SI. No.	Category	Service charge per ticket (Rs.)
1.	II class sleeper and II class sitting (2S)	15*
2.	III AC and AC Chair Car	20*
3.	II AC, I AC and First class	30*
4.	Cancellation Charges (for all classes)	10*

*Note: charges are inclusive of service tax.

(c) to (e) There have been some cases of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) failures in remote areas due to erratic power supply and interruptions in communication link. These failures are immediately brought to the notice of concerned State Government and BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) authorities for rectification. Apart from UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) at all PRS centres, power supply from overhead lines has been ordered to be provided at stations on electrified territory. In addition, whenever DG (Diesel Generator) sets are provided at the stations, the same will also supply to PRS centres. To provide uninterrupted functioning of PRS, alternate communication links are provided where feasible.

Gauge conversion

735. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in respect of the work of broad-gauge conversion in different States of the country, during the last five years, year-wise, zone-wise and section-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals/requests of the State Government of Gujarat received by Government with regard to the broad-gauge conversion; and

(c) the latest status thereof alongwith the period of pendency in respect of each such proposal/request especially in the case of Gujarat State?